AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of laser drilling a vibrating workpiece, comprising:

providing a workpiece engaged by a first vibrating frame of a vibrating machine, wherein the workpiece is vibrating substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame;

providing a laser apparatus mounted to a second frame, wherein the second frame is substantially isolated from the vibrating frame and does not vibrate[[,]];

providing a spherical focusing lens that is mounted to the first vibrating frame, wherein the spherical focusing lens is vibrating substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame;

aligning the laser apparatus and the spherical focusing lens such that a laser beam emitted by the laser apparatus is directed through the vibrating spherical focusing lens to a target location on the vibrating workpiece; and[[,]]

causing the laser apparatus to emit a beam through the spherical focusing lens, wherein the beam is stationary with respect to the vibrating spherical focusing lens, and wherein the beam strikes the vibrating workpiece at the target location.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the laser comprises an Nd-Yag laser.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the workpiece comprises a surgical needle.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the laser beam is pulsed.

5. (PreviouslyPresented) The method of claim 1, wherein the workpiece is mounted to a fixture which is mounted to the first vibrating frame, wherein the fixture vibrates substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for laser drilling a vibrating workpiece, comprising:

a workpiece mounted to a first vibrating frame;

a laser apparatus mounted to a second frame, wherein the second frame is substantially isolated from the first vibrating frame and is substantially non-vibrating; and,

a spherical focusing lens mounted to the first vibrating frame for directing a laser beam emitted by the laser apparatus to a target site on the workpiece, such that the spherical focusing lens

vibrates substantially in unison with the first vibrating frame, while the laser beam is substantially stationary with respect to the vibrating spherical focusing lens.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the laser comprises an Nd-Yag laser.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the workpiece comprises a surgical needle.